

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):** (a) and (b) Over the past few years, the Indian Navy has been augmenting its force levels (ships and aircraft) in the A&N Islands in order to undertake surveillance/patrolling of the seas effectively. The augmentation of the force levels is expected to deter the use of these waters for gun running and other nefarious activities.

**Delay in induction of Akash and Trishul Missiles System**

**3665. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has conveyed to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence that there would be considerable delay in the planned induction of the Akash and Trishul Missiles System;

(b) whether there is no firm commitment yet about the probable time by when the induction would take place; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views in this regard and the impact that this uncertainty would have on our defence preparedness?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):** (a) and (b) Defence Ministry has conveyed the factual position regarding design, development and realization of state-of-the-art technologies for 'Akash' & 'Trishul' missile system to the Committee. Both systems have entered the guided flight trial phase. 'Akash' had two successful flight trials during February/March 2001. Both system are expected to be ready for induction by 2002, after user trials.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b).